

Royal Welsh Show 2023

Minister for Rural Affairs

**Animal Licensing Wales Enforcement Project**

Day and Date:	Monday 24 July
Time:	Information redacted FOIA s38 – Health and Safety information
Location:	OCVO Gazebo adjacent to Welsh Government Pavilion
Audience:	Animal Licensing Wales and members of the public who may pass by.
WG Official in attendance	Tracey Burke, Director General CCRA Richard Irvine, Chief Vet
Contact:	Information redacted FOIA s40(2) – personal information – Tel Information redacted FOIA s40(2) – personal information Information redacted FOIA s40(2) – personal information – Tel Information redacted FOIA s40(2) – personal information

**What is expected of the Minister?**

Animal Welfare's presence in the OCVO gazebo this year focusses on Responsible Dog Ownership, with the Animal Licensing Wales team present all week to promote the Welsh Government funded PfG projects and launching their Animal Licensing Wales website.

Activities are related to the PfG commitments on developing animal welfare regulation/licensing and improving qualifications for enforcement inspectors.

Attend the Gazebo for an informal conversation and photo opportunity around tackling illegal dog breeding and promoting responsible ownership.

Who will greet the Minister on arrival?

**Information redacted FOIA s40(2) – personal information**, OCVO Animal Welfare

Also present:

**Information redacted FOIA s40(2) – personal information**, OCVO Animal Welfare

**Information redacted FOIA s40(2) – personal information**, Animal Licensing Wales

**Information redacted FOIA s40(2) – personal information**, Animal Licensing Wales

### **Briefing**

- Thank the team for their work, acknowledge the awards they have received (see below), and thank them for diverting resources to attend the Caerphilly Greyhound racetrack to monitor greyhound welfare.
- The WG-funded Animal Licensing Wales project has significantly increased LA capacity to investigate and enforce legislation to restrict illegal breeding.
- A total of £16,890.00 of Welsh Government funding has enabled four training courses to be delivered to 63 officers across all Local Authorities in Wales.
- The Project is extending training for LA enforcement officers as new licensing regulations are introduced. To date they have recruited 8 regional enforcement officers and 2 senior intelligence officers.
- **Awards:** the first trained senior intelligence officer was nominated for a Pet Industry Federation award and the programme received RSPCA's Innovator Footprint award.
- Working in partnership is key to the success of our Animal Welfare Plan. We are grateful for our strong and long-standing relationships with the farming industry, third sector organisations, the Welsh Local Authorities, other enforcement agencies, the veterinary profession, scientific communities, and our counterparts in the other Governments.
- Between October 2022 and January 2023, enforcement officers undertook 106 inspections across 97 premises and 6 Local Authorities leading to 29 Improvement Notices under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 being served.
- Intelligence development work saw the launch of a CrimeStoppers campaign, leading to 90 reports in the first year. A dedicated number allows anyone to report concerns they may have in relation to illegal breeding, non-compliance with licensing conditions, or any other animal welfare concerns they may have in relation to illegal activities.
- Future funding is linked to the Programme for Government as two of the four animal welfare commitments relate to the Animal Licensing Wales project: develop a national model for regulation/licensing and improving qualifications for enforcement officers.
- The Animal Licensing Wales Online Information System will be launched at the Royal Welsh Show. It includes dedicated resources for both buyers and sellers, news items and updates. It will create a centralised application porthole, including integrated payment facilities and accessibility for each Local Authority.

- The LA Enforcement Project will be rebranded under the 'Animal Licensing Wales' project to continue developing a co-operative approach to standards, enforcement practices and provide advice on existing legislation.